

DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES, SOUTH-SOUTH SOLUTIONS

E-newsletter of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation in UNDP



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1) Cheap Paper Microscope to Boost Fight Against Diseases

To tackle diseases in the developing world, the most important first step is diagnosis. Without effective diagnosis, it is difficult to go to the next steps of either treatment or cure. While much attention is given to the high costs involved in treating and curing ailments, screening for diagnosis is also expensive, especially if it involves lots of people. Anything that can reduce the cost of diagnosis will free up resources to expand the number of people who can be checked, and help eradicate contagious diseases.

One innovation is an inexpensive microscope that could allow diagnosing diseases such as malaria to be done on a much larger scale. Called the Foldscope (foldscope.com), it is made from paper, comes in a variety of bright colors and resembles the cardboard, three-dimensional cut-and-keep models regularly found in children's books and magazines.

Foldscope's designs are developed on a computer and then printed. Foldscopes are made from thick paper, glue, a switch, a battery and a light-emitting diode (LED) (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Light-emitting_diode).

Inspired by the ancient Japanese paper-folding craft of Origami (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Origami>), Foldscope's makers at the Prakash Lab at Stanford University (<http://www.stanford.edu/~manup/>) are trying to create "scientific tools that can scale up to match problems in global health and science education", according to their website.

The Foldscope can be put together in less than 10 minutes (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rphTSmb-Ux4>) using a pair of scissors, packing tape and tweezers.

Once assembled, a user places a standard glass microscope slide in the Foldscope, turns on the LED light and uses their thumbs to guide the lens to view the slide.

Each Foldscope can magnify up to 2000 times with a sub-micron resolution of 800 nm. The battery can last up to 50 hours on a single button-cell battery and requires no further external power. Its makers claim it can survive being stepped on or dropped from a three-storey building.

It can perform a wide variety of microscopy techniques.

Its makers hope to manufacture billions of Foldscopes a year by exploiting the cheapness of the material and the simplicity of construction.

A beta test called "Ten Thousand Microscopes" will enlist 10,000 people to test the Foldscope in the field. Participants will contribute to helping write a field manual for the Foldscope prior to mass manufacturing. The Foldscope costs just US \$0.50 to make for the basic model and US \$1 for a higher-magnification version.

Field tests are taking place in the United States, Uganda and India.

Foldscope is designed to be used where more sophisticated lab analysis is not possible or affordable. It can also be an educational tool to give students experience in hands-on microscopy, or build awareness in the general population of how infectious diseases are spread by unseen lifeforms.

Foldscope's makers hope their creation will help diagnose common but devastating diseases including *Plasmodium falciparum* (malaria),

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Trypanosome cruzi (Chagas disease), Girardia lamblia (giardiasis), Leishmania donovani (leishmaniasis), Dirofilaria immitis (filariasis), Human Sickle Cell (sickle-cell anaemia), E. Coli and Bacillus and Pine strobilus.

The quantity of people that need to be checked for diseases is vast and means, in countries where incomes and resources are low, it just isn't possible to undertake diagnostic services using conventional methods.

"There is definitely a huge gap between where we are and where we want to be," Stanford School of Medicine Assistant Professor for Bioengineering Manu Prakash explained on the university's website.

"When you do get it (malaria), there is this simple-minded thing 'forget diagnostics, let's just get that tablet' - and that's what happens in most of the world. But the problem is there is many different strains, there are many different medications, you could potentially make the problem even worse by not realizing that you have malaria. And at the same time, the people who get a severe case - they are not detected at all.

"What is that one thing that you could almost distribute for free that starts to match the specificity of what detection requires? For malaria, the standard is to be able to image, and sit on a microscope and essentially go through slides.

"What we found as a challenge, if you truly want to scale, you should be really testing more than a billion people every year: that's a billion tests a year. Any platform that you can imagine needs to scale to those numbers to make an impact.

"One of these things that have been shown over and over again - if you can put (in place) an infrastructure to fight malaria that is scalable and sustainable, then you get retraction of malaria in different regions."

LINKS:

- 1) World Health Organization: Facts on malaria from the WHO. **Website:** <http://www.who.int/topics/malaria/en/>
- 2) WHO: Ten Facts on Malaria: About 3.4 billion people – half of the world's population – are at risk of malaria. In 2012, there were about 207 million malaria cases (with an uncertainty range of 135 million to 287 million) and an estimated 627,000 malaria deaths (with an uncertainty range of 473,000 to 789,000). **Website:** <http://www.who.int/features/factfiles/malaria/en/>
- 3) Instructables: How to build a US \$10 stand to turn a smartphone into a digital microscope. **Website:** <http://www.instructables.com/id/10-Smartphone-to-digital-microscope-conversion/>
- 4) Microscope adapter app for smartphones: iPhone, Android, Blackberry or any Smartphone, with an attachment and an app, can be turned into a microscope. **Website:** <http://internetmedicine.com/iphone-microscope/>
- 5) Stanford University: Stanford University, located between San Francisco and San Jose in the heart of California's Silicon Valley, is one of the world's leading teaching and research universities. **Website:** stanford.edu
- 6) MaRS: Located in Toronto, Canada, MaRS is where science, technology and social entrepreneurs get the help they need. Where all kinds of people meet to spark new ideas. And where a global reputation for innovation is being earned, one success story at a time. **Website:** marsdd.com
- 7) Universal smartphone to microscope and telescope adapter/mount: The SkyLight is a universal smartphone-to-microscope adapter. **Website:** <http://www.amazon.com/Universal-Smart-Microscope-Telescope-Adapter/dp/B00GF3Q3CK>

2) Asian Factories Starting to go Green

Media headlines have recently highlighted the growing air pollution crisis in Asia's expanding cities. This is caused by a mix of factors - the growing number of vehicles, coal-powered factories, people burning dirty fuels to heat their homes, and poor enforcement of standards - and has severe consequences for human health. If it's not tackled, more and more countries will see large rises in respiratory problems, cancers and early deaths from pollution-caused illnesses (<http://www.nrdc.org/air/>).

The World Health Organization (WHO) says air pollution is the world's largest environmental health risk, killing 7 million people every year. Asia has the largest number of air pollution deaths in the world, with 3.3 million deaths linked to indoor air pollution and 2.6 million deaths related to outdoor air pollution (Clean Air Asia).

While most of the Asian countries where this is a problem are also aggressively growing their economies in order to get richer and raise living standards, there is a rising awareness of the need to balance a modern, industrial economy with human health and the environment.

One solution is to adopt green and sustainable building standards when constructing new factories. This is more than just a public relations exercise: the energy savings possible from building smart pay off in the long run. And green factories not only pollute less, they save lives and the environment.

Asia plays a critical role in producing the world's consumer products, from the small and simple to the highly complex components used in 21st-century computing technologies.

Intel (intel.com), the manufacturer of electronic devices and the computer chips that go inside them, is trying to lead the way. It has built a US \$1 billion manufacturing plant 16 kilometers outside Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, and it is designed to exceed Vietnamese environmental and sustainability guidelines and laws.

Opened in 2010, it boasts the country's largest solar power system. It is also currently working on a water reclamation system to reduce water consumption at the plant by 68 per cent, according to The New York Times. It is hoping to receive certification from the US Green Building Council (usgbc.org).

It is all part of a wider trend that is starting to reverse the damaging, short-termist approach of the past. More and more Western multinationals and their Asian suppliers are building environmentally sound factories in the developing world.

According to the US Green Building Council, around 300 manufacturing facilities in Asia are either certified or are awaiting Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. The LEED certification recognizes the building has met certain standards in becoming a 'green' building.

Going green is more and more part of corporate policy for companies that want to avoid the bad publicity of disasters such as the garment factory collapse that killed 1,135 people in Bangladesh in April 2013.

But it is not just driven by a desire to avoid bad publicity: large corporations that build factories in the global South are also realizing there are big financial savings to be made.

Intel has been able to reduce its global energy costs by US \$111 million since 2008. It did this by investing US \$59 million in 1,500 projects to boost sustainability across its facilities worldwide. The projects have reduced carbon dioxide emissions equivalent to the amount produced by 126,000 American households per year.

Intel's solar array in Vietnam, which cost US \$1.1 million, offsets the equivalent of 500 pollution-belching motorbikes every day.

How effective are LEED-certified buildings? The New York Times reported that a 2011 survey compared a typical shoe factory with a LEED factory run by the American sport shoe maker Nike. It found the LEED factory used 18 per cent less electricity and fuel and 53 per cent less water.

And this trend is creating a new economy unto itself. As an example, a new marketplace for industrial efficiency upgrading is developing in India. Power outages are frequent in India, so finding a way to save electricity and alternatives to dependence on the national power grid is attractive to any economic enterprise.

Prashant Kapoor, principal industry specialist for green buildings at the International Finance Corporation (IFC), believes demand for upgrades is strong enough that various companies can specialize in this field and profit from it.

And things are also happening in the notoriously smog-choked cities of China. By the end of 2012, China had certified eight factories and 742 buildings as LEED, according to the China buildings programme at the Energy Foundation (ef.org) in San Francisco.

Damien Duhamel of Solidiance (solidiance.com), a firm that advises businesses on how to grow in Asia, believes avoiding risk caused by environmental accidents or scandals is heightened by the growing presence of social media, which amplifies negative publicity.

"The next battle will be here" for higher corporate environmental standards, Duhamel believes. "This is why some smart companies - Intel, for example - took the steps of being proactive."

LINKS:

- 1) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED): LEED, or Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design, is a green building certification program that recognizes best-in-class building strategies and practices. **Website:** <http://www.usgbc.org/leed>
- 2) US Green Building Council (USGBC): Its mission is to transform the way buildings and communities are designed, built and operated, enabling an environmentally and socially responsible, healthy, and prosperous environment that improves the quality of life. **Website:** <http://www.usgbc.org/>
- 3) Dwell: Dwell magazine is focused on demonstrating that modern design can be both functional and comfortable. **Website:** dwell.com

- 4) Inhabitat: Design for a Better World: Inhabitat.com is a weblog devoted to the future of design, tracking the innovations in technology, practices and materials that are pushing architecture and home design towards a smarter and more sustainable future. **Website:** inhabitat.com
- 5) Solidiance: Singapore-based consulting firm specializing in Asia's green-building sector. **Website:** solidiance.com
- 6) Clean Air Asia: Clean Air Asia was established in 2001 as the premier air quality network for Asia by the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, and USAID. Its mission is to promote better air quality and livable cities by translating knowledge to policies and actions that reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from transport, energy and other sectors. **Website:** cleanairinitiative.org
- 7) Southern Innovator Issue 4: Cities and Urbanization: This issue is packed with ideas on to how make cities and urban environments greener and reduce air pollution. **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/133622315/Southern-Innovator-Magazine-Issue-4-Cities-and-Urbanization> and here: <http://tinyurl.com/oc2mqgm>
- 8) Better Air Quality Conference 2014 and 8th Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport Forum in Asia: From 19 to 21 November 2014 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, BAQ is the leading event on air quality in Asia, covering the key sectors of transport, energy, industry and climate change, with a particular emphasis on government policies and measures. **Website:** <http://cleanairinitiative.org/portal/node/12274>
- 9) Tianjin Eco-city: The Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city's vision is to be a thriving city which is socially harmonious, environmentally-friendly and resource-efficient. **Website:** tianjinecocity.gov.sg
- 10) Songdo: Songdo International Business District (IBD) officially opened on August 7, 2009 as a designated Free Economic Zone and the first new sustainable city in the world designed to be an international business district. **Website:** songdo.com

3) Reality Television Teaches Business Skills in Sudan

Learning how to thrive in a market economy does not necessarily come naturally. But for young people who have grown up under a different economic system or known nothing but economic chaos, learning business skills can give them the tools to get on in life.

With youth unemployment rates high around the world, it is clear many young people may never get the jobs they expect unless they start businesses themselves.

In 2013, 73.4 million young people were out of work, an increase of 3.5 million from 2007. A report by the International Labour Organization (ilo.org) found persistent unemployment around the world in the wake of the global economic crisis, a proliferation of temporary jobs and growing youth discouragement in advanced economies; and poor quality, informal, subsistence jobs in developing countries. School-to-work transition surveys of developing countries showed that youth are far more likely to land low-quality jobs in the informal economy than jobs paying decent wages and offering benefits.

High youth unemployment often has nothing to do with poor educational achievement (many unemployed youth have high school educations or university degrees), but is often caused by other factors, including lack of access to capital, rigid labour markets, skills mismatched to demand in the economy (for example construction and building trades), or a gap between personal aspirations and the true state of the country's economic development.

But rather than despair, it is possible to show youth how to turn things around and use business skills to re-shape economies in their favor. Youth tend to bring to the economy energy and drive combined with new ideas and experiences calibrated to the demands of the 21st century. By harnessing this, youth can find a unique space in the marketplace. In turn, young people can lead in reviving damaged economies and making their countries wealthier and healthier. Many youth have grown up around the emerging digital economy and the use of mobile phones. Being comfortable with the 21st century digital economy will unleash many economic opportunities that favor youth.

The British Council says that "creative entrepreneurship is considered the most efficient model for youth in the developing world who are facing huge difficulties in finding employment". The entrepreneurship or creative investment industry is one of the fastest-growing sectors in the world.

Understanding what works for youth business entrepreneurship has become a specialty in its own right. Using the media to teach skills and inspire youth to action is one proven approach.

One recent example is a successful television programme from the Republic of the Sudan. Called Mashrouy (mashrouy.com), it is modeled on reality TV programmes such as The Apprentice, which features serial U.S. entrepreneur Donald Trump (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00q3fkq>) and the BBC's Dragon's Den (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006vq92>), where contestants pitch their ideas to a panel of judges to see if they can get funding for their business idea.

In Mashrouy, 12 contestants battled it out to see who had the best business idea. They undertook various challenges and the original 12 were whittled down to three contestants. Live on air in December 2013, viewers voted for their favorite contestant and the winner (<https://www.facebook.com/Mashrouy>) received a prize of 200,000 SDG (US \$35,211), while the second prize winner received 150,000 SDG (US \$26,408) and the third prize winner received 100,000 SDG (US \$17,605). All three were then taken to London in the United Kingdom to meet other creative entrepreneurs and receive valuable business advice.

The Sudanese show (<http://sudan.britishcouncil.org/our-work/mashrouy>) is supported by the British Embassy and the British Council, and is working with the Sudanese Young Businessmen Association and major Sudanese companies to spread the idea of entrepreneurship among the youth of Sudan.

Sudan suffered a brutal civil war on and off throughout the 2000s, leading to the partition of the original country into the Republic of the Sudan and the new nation of South Sudan in 2011.

Faced with Sudan's serious youth unemployment - as high as 34 per cent - and a fragile economy, the TV show's producers wanted to encourage youth to start businesses.

The contest was aimed at youth between 18 and 40 and appeared on the Blue Nile (<http://bnile.tv/blue.html>) channel.

"At a time of national economic hardship, it has kindled the imagination of Sudanese youth," wrote journalist Isma'il Kushkush (<https://twitter.com/ikushkush>) in The New York Times.

For the show, a panel of experts picked 12 projects out of 2,500 applications. Each of the 12 finalists was given a chance to do a "pitch," giving a quick summary of their business idea and trying to get the panel excited about the idea and its potential. The idea that generated the most excitement won.

The 12 pitches included an idea for an ostrich farm and a plan to export spicy peanut butter. The winner, 32-year-old Samah al-Gadi, wants to use a locally available weed-like river plant to make bags and furniture. She said she got up the courage to be on the show from a supportive mother.

"Amid ululations, screams and clapping, a jubilant Ms. Gadi raised both hands above her scarf-covered head, flashing victory signs," The New York Times said. "Her mother, sitting at a dinner table, was brought to tears."

The women-owned social enterprise Making Cents International (makingcents.com), based in Washington, D.C., USA, has been gathering resources on youth entrepreneurship since 1999. It has put together a custom "curricula to develop the mindset, skillset, and toolset that enable entrepreneurs and enterprises to participate in profitable markets; financial institutions to serve new populations; and individuals to obtain meaningful work". This is available in 25 languages. It also hosts the Global Youth Economic Opportunities Conference in Washington, DC, held this year from 6 to 8 October 2014 (<http://youtheconomicopportunities.org/conference>).

LINKS:

- 1) Khartoum Teaching Centre: The British Council is a world leader in English language training and teaching. It offers general English courses for adult learners of all levels, totaling 60 hours of tuition over 10 weeks. **Website:** <http://sudan.britishcouncil.org/learn-english/courses>
- 2) Start-up Chile innovation fund: Start-Up Chile is a program created by the Chilean Government, executed by Corfo via InnovaChile, that seeks to attract early stage, high-potential entrepreneurs to bootstrap their startups in Chile, using it as a platform to go global. **Website:** startupchile.org
- 3) Global Youth Economic Opportunities Conference 2014: From 6 to 8 October Youth entrepreneurship conference in Washington, D.C., USA. **Website:** youtheconomicopportunities.org/conference
- 4) Making Cents International: The Youth Economic Opportunities learning platform is the first community of practice and knowledge exchange portal developed by and for the youth economic opportunities sector. **Website:** youtheconomicopportunities.org
- 5) Mongolian Rock Pop book: A book published by UNDP in the Mongolian language on how the country's rock and pop musicians led on business innovation using creative marketing and publicity during the country's turbulent transition during the 1990s. **Website:** <http://tinyurl.com/p25scqg>

4) Popular Chinese Social Media Chase New Markets

China has a vast and growing market for the Internet and mobile devices. Over the past decade that market has been largely confined to China - most businesses have had enough domestic demand and opportunities inside the country to keep them busy.

But now companies in China's dynamic Internet and mobile sector are seeking out new markets outside the country. Both online shopping service Alibaba (alibaba.com) and Weibo (weibo.com), the Chinese version of Twitter (twitter.com), are seeking to list on the New York Stock Exchange. The excitement this news has generated shows how many people want to get a piece of the large Chinese market for technology, social networks and online shopping. It is also sending a chill through America's Silicon Valley - home to the country's innovative high technology sector - that they are missing out on China's fast-growing marketplace. Many American services are banned from operating in China. Even more worrying for Silicon Valley, these home-grown Chinese companies, with the market sewn up at home, are now set to compete globally for customers using their increasingly deep pockets.

One example is Tencent (<http://www.tencent.com/en-us/index.shtml>), owner of popular Chinese social messaging application (app) Weixin (weixin.qq.com), known as WeChat (wechat.com) outside China. Used on mobile phones and smartphones, Weixin has gained 300 million users in just three years, becoming the dominant social messaging service in the world's largest smartphone market. It has been so successful that many rivals are trying to chip away at its customer base.

Weixin, pronounced way-shin, allows smartphone users to send messages and share news, photos, videos and web links with friends. One of its selling points is its claim to not store messages on its servers.

Building on its success in social networking in China, it is looking to expand in other markets, including Southeast Asia, Europe and Latin America. It also wants to grow its offerings in online payment and e-commerce.

One factor in Weixin's success is the ability to send messages by recording a voice message rather than just typing in characters: very useful for non-Latin script users, and especially for Chinese-language users, who use thousands of characters in everyday communication.

One ambitious forecast claims Weixin could reach 400 million users and make US \$500 million revenue within a year.

Cosmetics marketer Jenny Zhao, who uses an iPhone 5, told The New York Times: "I'm probably on Weixin six hours a day. A lot of what I do revolves around it."

"I use Weixin every day," said Zhang Shoufeng, a food and drinks seller. "My friends are on it and my boss is on it. We are talking about where to eat, where to hang out and where to meet for company conferences. This is how we communicate."

Analysts believe Weixin has benefitted from not having to compete with banned-in-China American company Facebook (facebook.com).

"Even if Facebook had permission, it's probably too late," said Wang Xiaofeng, an analyst at Forrester Research. "Weixin has all the functionality of Facebook and Twitter, and Chinese have already gotten used to it."

Tencent is an example of a wider trend: As Chinese companies and offerings have become stronger, wealthier and more innovative, they increasingly look to build their customer base outside China.

Founded in November, 1998, Tencent, Inc. has grown into China's largest and most used Internet service portal. Its most popular services include QQ (QQ Instant Messenger), WeChat, QQ.com, QQ Games, Qzone, 3g.QQ.com, SoSo, PaiPai and Tenpay, as well as Weixin.

The company claims to put innovation at the heart of its business, with more than half of its employees devoted to research and development. The Tencent Research Institute, established in 2007 with RMB 100 million (US \$16 million), calls itself "China's first Internet research institute, with campuses in Beijing, Shanghai, and Shenzhen." It has patents for technologies it has developed for instant messaging, e-commerce, online payment services, search, information security, and gaming.

Tencent was driven to innovate by a fear it could quickly become irrelevant in the information technology space. Weixin is also pioneering ways to book taxis, hotels and airline flights through the service and even ways to control home appliances.

"Chinese Internet companies are no longer behind," said William Bao Bean, a managing director at the venture capital firm SingTel Innov8 (<http://innov8.singtel.com/>). "Now in some areas, they're leading the way."

LINKS:

- 1) Weibo: Sina Weibo is a Chinese microblogging (weibo) website. Akin to a hybrid of Twitter and Facebook, it is one of the most popular sites in China, in use by well over 30 per cent of Internet users, with a market penetration similar to what Twitter has established in the USA. **Website:** weibo.com
- 2) Laiwang: A variation on the WeChat service, its biggest competitor. **Website:** laiwang.com
- 3) WhatsApp: WhatsApp Messenger is a cross-platform mobile messaging app which allows you to exchange messages without having to pay for SMS. **Website:** whatsapp.com
- 4) Southern Innovator Issue 1: Mobile Phones and Information Technology: Pioneering and innovative ways to deploy mobile phones and information technology to tackle poverty. **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/57980406/Southern-Innovator-Magazine-Issue-1> and here: <http://tinyurl.com/q6bfnpz>

5) The BRCK: Kenyan-Developed Solution to Boost Internet Access

Using the Internet in Africa has its challenges, as anyone who has worked there knows. Issues can include weak Wi-Fi signals, slow Internet service providers, electricity outages and power surges that can damage or destroy sensitive electronic devices.

Power surges (<http://electronics.howstuffworks.com/everyday-tech/surge-protector3.htm>) can occur for a variety of reasons but are usually a sudden surge in the current flowing to the wall outlet from the power mains. They are common in developing countries, and can be tragic for electronic devices.

Most electronic devices are designed for use in developed countries where people can take the power supply, and ubiquitous Internet access, for granted. This affects the way devices are made. Designers will assume many things are available to users and build the electronic devices accordingly. But for users in Africa and across the global South, what seems easy in the developed world is fraught with frustration and wasted time.

This is a big obstacle to economic development and places people in Africa at a disadvantage in the modern world of fast communications.

One initiative is out to transform this experience for the better with a made-in-Africa solution that is being modified based on real-world experience and user feedback.

The BRCK (brck.com) bills itself as "your backup generator for the Internet" and is intended to address the problems of finding a reliable Internet connection, staying online in a power blackout and saving devices from destruction when there is a power surge.

Anyone who has tried to use a laptop computer to upload some photographs in Africa will know the frustration felt when the Wi-Fi signal drops away. The BRCK hunts around for the strongest signal and grabs it so the user can carry on working.

Built to be robust and take knocks and bruises, it is a sleek, black plastic brick-shaped device with the letters BRCK elegantly embossed on the side.

The BRCK can function as a hub for up to 20 devices, with a built-in Wi-Fi signal able to cover multiple rooms (so a team can work off a single Internet connection), a battery that can last eight hours, a 16-gigabyte on board memory hard drive, and software to allow for remote management by apps on other devices such as smartphones. While it is not able to speed up an already poor connection or increase low bandwidth, it can "scavenge" around to find the strongest signal and hop to it right away. It can work with Ethernet, Wi-Fi, and 3G and 4G networks.

If a blackout occurs, it quickly switches to the onboard battery without forcing a re-boot of the computer.

It has been developed in Nairobi, Kenya and the first plastic prototype of the BRCK device was milled at the Fab Lab Nairobi (<http://fablab.uonbi.or.ke/>) using a 3D fabricator machine.

The BRCK's makers describe it as a tool "trying to create ubiquitous Internet" and an "enabler of the Internet of things." The BRCK is designed around the changing way people work and access the Internet, frequently moving from place to place. People now don't just rely on one device but have many - a mobile phone or smartphone, a laptop, a tablet, an iPod or other device.

A Kickstarter fundraising campaign (<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1776324009/brck-your-backup-generator-for-the-internet>) gives more details on the origins of the project and offers many ways to support the different stages of development, right up to mass manufacturing of the BRCK.

One application of the BRCK is for research. It could be deployed to gather data at a field site, then connect via the Cloud (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cloud_computing) to pass data back to a lab at a university in another country for analysis.

The BRCK is being built by Ushahidi (ushahidi.com), a non-profit technology company that makes open source software and made its name with the crowdsourced mapping platform it built during the post-election violence in Kenya in 2008. The Ushahidi platform has been deployed around the world since in many crisis situations.

Founded by David Kobia, Juliana Rotich and Erik Hersman, the Ushahidi team is focused on "building tools that improve the way information flows in the world." It is about making tools to help people communicate in the most difficult places.

BRCK comes with a visually appealing website that makes excellent use of the BRCK's ebony good looks.

The website boasts: "If it works in Africa, it'll work anywhere".

The ongoing development of the BRCK can be followed on the website's blog:
<http://www.brck.com/2014/01/they-case-for-engineering-brck-in-africa-part-1/>.

"The idea is to build a company around the product rather than just do a one-off product - and to gradually improve the product through new versions," said BRCK's chief technology officer Reg Orton.

"Our engineers are based in Kenya now - we are not based in China, we are not based in the (Silicon) Valley. What that means for us we are able to go out there and (be) able to see the problems directly."

The BRCK can be ordered online and will be available for sale soon, according to the website.

LINKS:

- 1) Momax iPower Milk External Battery: Inspired from daily life, the creative iPower Milk looks like a cute and fresh milk carton. It fulfills your daily energy need just as pure milk. iPower Milk comes in a variety of cheerful candy colors, so choose one which suits your taste. The tiny and delicate iPower Milk has 1.5A USB output, which is compatible with most digital devices, including tablets.
Website:http://shop.brando.com/Momax-iPower-Milk-External-Battery-2600mAh_p09700c1595d003.html
- 2) Southern Innovator Issue 1: Mobile Phones and Information Technology: Pioneering and innovative ways to deploy mobile phones and information technology to tackle poverty. **Website:**
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/57980406/Southern-Innovator-Magazine-Issue-1> and here:
<http://tinyurl.com/q6bfnpz>
- 3) 3) iHub Nairobi: Nairobi's Innovation Hub for the technology community is an open space for the technologists, investors, tech companies and hackers in the area. This space is a tech community facility with a focus on young entrepreneurs, web and mobile phone programmers, designers and researchers. It is part open community workspace (co-working), part vector for investors and VCs (venture capitalists) and part incubator. **Website:** ihub.co.ke
- 4) 4) Fab Lab Nairobi: Fablab (fabrication laboratory or "fabulous laboratory") is a workshop with an array of computer controlled tools with the aim to make "almost anything". Fab labs provide widespread access to modern means for invention. They began as an outreach project from MIT's Center for Bits and Atoms (CBA). CBA assembled millions of dollars in machines for research in digital fabrication, ultimately aiming at developing programmable molecular assemblers that will be able to make almost anything. Fab labs fall between these extremes, comprising roughly fifty thousand dollars in equipment and materials that can be used today to do what will be possible with tomorrow's personal fabricators.
Website: <http://fablab.uonbi.or.ke/>

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Check out our website archive: southerninnovator.org

Southern Innovator magazine's fifth issue (ISSN 2222-9280) (ISBN 978-0-9920217-1-9) is now online and 5,000 copies are available for distribution. The fifth issue's theme is waste and recycling. View the issue online here:
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/207579744/Southern-Innovator-Magazine-Issue-5-Waste-and-Recycling>.

Contact us about opportunities to sponsor this issue or any future issues and we can send you more information on how it works. Southern Innovator needs financial support in order to keep up the good work of sharing knowledge and innovation around the global South. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to reach the pioneers and innovators shaping our new world.

Southern Innovator magazine's fourth issue (ISBN 978-0-9920217-0-2) is also online and 5,000 print copies are available for distribution. The fourth issue's theme is cities and urbanization. View the issue online here:
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/133622315/Southern-Innovator-Magazine-Issue-4-Cities-and-Urbanization>.

Issue 6 (ISBN 978-0-9920217-2-6) will be on the theme of science, technology and innovation. Get on board now and support the magazine and help us to reach more people. Please contact the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation in UNDP if you would like a copy (copies) of Southern Innovator (<http://ssc.undp.org/content/ssc.html>).

The covers for Issues 4 and 5 are below:



Follow us on Twitter @SouthSouth1

Issue 1 of Southern Innovator was called "...a terrific tour de force of what is interesting, cutting edge and relevant in the global mobile/ICT space..." and "Beautiful, inspiring magazine from UNDP on South-South innovation. Heart is pumping adrenaline and admiration just reading it"

Issue 4 has been called "fantastic, great content and a beautiful design!"

On Southern Innovator: "Btw, I really enjoyed reading them, impressive work & a great resource. Looking forward to Issue 6. My best wishes to you & your team at SI."

Also check out our SouthSouth Expo: 2013's Expo was in Nairobi, Kenya from 28 October to 1 November 2013. The first Arab States Regional South-South Development Expo took place from 18-20 February 2014 in Doha, Qatar: southsouthexpo.org

BOOKS

Human Development Report 2013: The Rise of the South. The 2013 Human Development Report examines the profound shift in global dynamics driven by the fast-rising new powers of the developing world and its long-term implications for human development. **Website:**

<http://hdr.undp.org/en/mediacentre/humandevreportpresskits/2013report/>

Human Development Reports, (1990-2013). **Website:** <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2011/>

The Frugal Innovator: Creating Change on a Shoestring Budget by Charles Leadbeater, Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan. **Website:** amazon.com

African Economic Outlook - Measuring the pulse of Africa, Publisher: African Development Bank (AfDB), the OECD Development Centre and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Africa's macroeconomic prospects remain favorable. In 2013, Africa maintained an average growth rate of about 4 per cent. This compares to 3 per cent for the global economy and underscores again the continent's resilience to global and regional headwinds. However, growth performance varied widely across country classifications and regions. **Website:** <http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en/>

The New Harvest: Agricultural Innovation in Africa by Calestous Juma, Publisher: Oxford University Press. **Website:** http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/publication/20504/new_harvest.html

NEW: *The Dollar Trap: How the U.S. Dollar Tightened its Grip on Global Finance* by Eswar S. Prasad, Publisher: Princeton University Press. **Website:** <http://press.princeton.edu/titles/10182.html>

The Death of Money: The Coming Collapse of the International Monetary System by James Rickards, Publisher: Portfolio Hardcover. **Website:** amazon.com

The Zero Marginal Cost Society: The Internet of Things, the Collaborative Commons, and the Eclipse of Capitalism by Jeremy Rifkin, Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan. **Website:** amazon.com

Edible Insects: Future prospects for food and feed security, Publisher: FAO. **Website:** <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3253e/i3253e00.htm>

Innovative Africa: The New Face of Africa: Essays on the Rise of Africa's Innovation Age by Will Mutua and Mbwana Ally, Publisher: Afrinnovator. **Website:** <http://book.afrinnovator.com/>

The Solution Revolution by William D. Eggers and Paul Macmillan, Publisher: Harvard Business Press. Where tough societal problems persist, citizens, social enterprises, and yes, even businesses, are relying less and less on government-only solutions. More likely, they are crowd funding, ride-sharing, app- developing or impact-investing to design lightweight solutions for seemingly intractable problems. No challenge is too daunting, from malaria in Africa to traffic congestion in California. **Website:** solutionrevolutionbook.com

Aid on the Edge of Chaos by Ben Ramalingam, Publisher: Oxford University Press. **Website:** <http://aidonthedge.info/>

Big Data: A Revolution That Will Transform How We Live, Work and Think by Viktor Mayer-Schonberger and Kenneth Cukier, Publisher: John Murray. **Website:** amazon.com

The New Digital Age: Reshaping the Future of People, Nations and Business by Eric Schmidt and Jared Cohen, Publisher: John Murray. **Website:** amazon.com

Interconnected Economies: Benefiting from Global Value Chains, Publisher: OECD. **Website:** <http://www.oecd.org/sti/ind/global-value-chains.htm>

Need, Speed and Greed: How the New Rules of Innovation Can Transform Businesses, Propel Nations to Greatness, and Tame the World's Most Wicked Problems by Vijay Vaitheeswaran, Publisher: HarperBusiness. **Website:** amazon.com

Living in the Endless City edited by Ricky Burdett and Deyan Sudjic, Publisher: Phaidon. The city is the subject of the 21st century. All over the world, populations are shifting towards urban centres. *Living in the Endless City* depicts an authoritative survey of cities of today and the prospects for our urban future of tomorrow. 36 contributors from across Europe, South America, China, Africa and the U.S. set the agenda for the city - detailing its successes as well as its failures. **Website:** <http://www.urban-age.net/publications/living-in-the-endless-city/>

Consumptionomics: Asia's Role in Reshaping Capitalism by Chandran Nair, Publisher: Infinite Ideas. **Website:** amazon.com

World 3.0: Global Prosperity and How to Achieve It by Pankaj Ghemawa, Publisher: Harvard Business School Press. **Website:** amazon.com

The End of Cheap China: Economic and Cultural Trends that will Disrupt the World by Shaun Rein, Publisher: John Wiley and Sons. **Website:** amazon.com

The Idealist: Jeffrey Sachs and the Quest to End Poverty by Nina Munk, Publisher: Doubleday. In 2006, Sachs launched the Millennium Villages Project, a daring five-year experiment designed to test his theories in Africa. For the past six years, Nina Munk has reported deeply on the Millennium Villages Project, accompanying Sachs on his official trips to Africa and listening in on conversations with heads-of-state, humanitarian organizations, rival economists, and development experts. **Website:** amazon.com

Breakout Nations by Ruchir Sharma, Publisher: Penguin. Breakout Nations offers journeys through more than two dozen of the most interesting economies in the emerging world. **Website:** <http://breakoutnations.com/>

Light Manufacturing in Africa by Hinh T. Dinh et al, Publisher: World Bank. This book examines how light manufacturing can offer a viable solution for sub-Saharan Africa's need for structural transformation and productive job creation, given its potential competitiveness based on low wage costs and an abundance of natural resources that supply raw materials needed for industries. **Website:** <http://issuu.com/world.bank.publications/docs/9780821389614>

China: And the End of Poverty in Africa – Towards Mutual Benefit? by Penny Davis, Publisher: Diakonia and the European Network on Debt and Development. **Website:** [www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Whats New/Reports/Kinarapport_A4.pdf](http://www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Whats%20New/Reports/Kinarapport_A4.pdf)

State of the Field in Youth Enterprise, Employment, and Livelihoods Development, Publisher: Making Cents International. This practical resource features learning from over 80 leading organizations that are working around the world to increase and improve economic opportunities for young people. Topics include youth enterprise development; workforce development; youth-inclusive financial services; working with adolescent girls and young women; and monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment. **Website:** www.YouthEconomicOpportunities.org/media.asp

Vitamin Green: The Definitive Guide to the World of Contemporary Sustainable Design: Features 100 Innovative Projects from Around the World by editors of Phaidon Press, Publisher: Phaidon Press. **Website:** <http://uk.phaidon.com/store/architecture/vitamin-green-9780714862293/>

Makers: The New Industrial Revolution By Chris Anderson, Publisher: Crown Business. **Website:** amazon.com

World Economic Outlook, October 2012: Coping with High Debt and Sluggish Growth, Publisher: IMF. **Website:** eurospangroup.com

Information Economy Report 2012: The Software Industry and Developing Countries, Publisher: United Nations Publications. **Website:** eurospangroup.com

China and India: Towards Global Economic Supremacy? by Rita Dulci and Jose Miguel Andreu, Publisher: Academic Foundation. **Website:** eurospanbookstore.com

Devaluing to Prosperity: Misaligned Currencies and Their Growth Consequences by Surjit S. Bhalla, Publisher: Peterson Institute for International Economics. **Website:** eurospanbookstore.com

China's Silent Army by Juan Pablo Cardenal and Heriberto Araujo, Publisher: Allen Lane. **Website:** amazon.com

The Production and Distribution of Knowledge in the United States by Fritz Machlup, Publisher: Princeton University Press. *The Production and Distribution of Knowledge in the United States* marked the beginning of the study of our postindustrial information society. Austrian-born economist Fritz Machlup had focused his research on the patent system, but he came to realize that patents were simply one part of a much bigger "knowledge economy." He then expanded the scope of his work to evaluate everything from stationery and typewriters to advertising to presidential addresses - anything that involved the activity of telling anyone anything. *The Production and Distribution of Knowledge in the United States* then revealed the new and startling shape of the U.S. economy. **Website:** amazon.com

Chinnovation: How Chinese Innovators are Changing the World by Yinglan Tan, Publisher: John Wiley & Sons. **Website:** amazon.com

China's Uncertain Future by Jean-Luc Domenach, Publisher: Columbia University Press. **Website:** amazon.com

Hello World: Where Design Meets Life by Alice Rawsthorn, Publisher: Hamish Hamilton. **Website:** amazon.com

Urgent Architecture: 40 Sustainable Housing Solutions for a Changing World by Bridgette Meinhold, Publisher: W.W. Norton & Co. **Website:** amazon.com

When the Money Runs Out: The End of Western Affluence by Stephen D. King, Publisher: Yale Books. **Website:** amazon.com

Architecture Now! Vol. 9 by Philip Jodidio, Publisher: Taschen. *Architecture Now! 9* includes works in Amsterdam and Inner Mongolia by architects as famous as Zaha Hadid and Jean Nouvel, and those as little known to the general public as Carla Juaçaba from Brazil. **Website:** tashcen.com

Papers and Reports

National Intellectual Property Systems, Innovation and Economic Development: With perspectives on Colombia and Indonesia Publisher: OECD. **Website:** <http://www.oecdbookshop.org/oecd/display.asp?sf1=identifiers&st1=9789264204478>

OECD Science, Technology and Industry Scoreboard 2013: Innovations for Growth Publisher: OECD. **Website:** <http://www.oecdbookshop.org/oecd/display.asp?K=5K49GNZP9H5L&LANG=EN>

Start-up Latin America: Promoting Innovation in the Region Publisher: OECD. **Website:** <http://www.oecdbookshop.org/oecd/display.asp?K=5K468NKR9BZR&LANG=EN>

Innovation in Southeast Asia Publisher: OECD. **Website:** <http://www.oecdbookshop.org/oecd/display.asp?K=5K9H35T9ZGTD&LANG=EN>

Knowledge-based Start-ups in Mexico Publisher: OECD. **Website:** <http://www.oecdbookshop.org/oecd/display.asp?K=5K4C7QF5L05G&LANG=EN>

Latest publications from UNRISD in Geneva on the Social and Solidarity Economy: Think pieces by Meyer and Leal on [Community Development Banks](#) in Brazil, by Richards and Ruddick on [Complementary Currencies](#) in Kenya. and by Larraitz Altuna-Gabilondo on the [Mondragon](#) cooperative in Spain. The SSE conference event brief is now available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#) at [http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/%28httpPublicationsHome%29/\\$First?OpenDocument](http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/%28httpPublicationsHome%29/$First?OpenDocument)

The new Social and Solidarity Economy [LinkedIn group](#) is stimulating dialogue and networking between practitioners, researchers and policy makers around the world. We invite you to join the group today. As a member you can exchange ideas about SSE, inform others of your work and get connected to colleagues from all over the world. You are welcome to post comments in your preferred language, and becoming a member is free of charge. Please share the webpage with your networks: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Social-Solidarity-Economy-5117299/about?trk=anet ug grppro>
Clean Air Asia Study 2012. **Website:** <http://cleanairinitiative.org/portal/node/11338>

African Economic Outlook 2012: Promoting Youth Employment Publisher: Various. With almost 200 million people aged between 15 and 24, Africa has the youngest population in the world. This number will double by 2045. Many jobs have been created over the last decade, but the pace needs to accelerate significantly to match the demand of Africa's next generations. **Website:** <http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en/>

State of China's Cities: 2010/2011: Better City, Better Life Publisher: UNHABITAT. **Website:** www.scribd.com/doc/39882697/State-of-China-s-Cities-Report-2010-2011

Still our Common Interest: Commission for Africa Report 2010 Publisher: Commission for Africa. **Website:** www.commissionforafrica.info/2010-report

The Emerging Middle Class in Developing Countries Publisher: OECD. **Website:** www.oecdilibrary.org/oecd/content/workingpaper/5kmp8lncrns-en (PDF - 2.09 mb)

The Implications of China's Ascendancy for Africa by Hany Besada, Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation. This paper examines the extent to which China's engagement with Africa has produced mutual benefits for both and whether Africa is reaping the necessary benefits required for poverty alleviation and economic development. **Website:** http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_40-web.pdf

Global Economic Decoupling Alive and Well Emerging economies decouple from the U.S., come closer to Europe. **Website:** <http://www.marketoracle.co.uk/Article23670.html>

Africa begins to make poverty history: U.S. economists challenge conventional view that the continent is a basket case **Website:** www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/mar/03/africa-makes-poverty-history

The Demise of the Rest: on How the BRICS Are Crumbling and Why Global Economic Convergence Is a Myth by Ruchir Sharma, Publisher: Foreign Affairs. **Website:** <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/138219/ruchir-sharma/broken-brics>

Meteoric Mongolia: Why It's Ascending So Fast – And How It Might Fall by Morris Rossabi, Publisher: Foreign Affairs. **Website:** <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/138794/morris-rossabi/meteoric-mongolia>

Innovations in Green Economy: Top Three Agenda by David South, Publisher: Southasiadisasters.net. **Website:** <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=35990>

Magazines

Southern Innovator Issue 1: Mobile Phones and Information Technology Publisher: UN Office for South-South Cooperation. **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/95410448/Southern-Innovator-Magazine-Issue-1-Mobile-Phones-and-Information-Technology>

Southern Innovator Issue 2: Youth and Entrepreneurship Publisher: UN Office for South-South Cooperation. **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/106055335/Southern-Innovator-Magazine-Issue-2-Youth-and-Entrepreneurship>

Southern Innovator Issue 3: Agribusiness and Food Security Publisher: UN Office for South-South Cooperation. **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/106055665/Southern-Innovator-Magazine-Issue-3-Agribusiness-and-Food-Security>

Southern Innovator Issue 4: Cities and Urbanization Publisher: UN Office for South-South Cooperation. **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/133622315/Southern-Innovator-Magazine-Issue-4-Cities-and-Urbanization>

Southern Innovator Issue 5: Waste and Recycling Publisher: UN Office for South-South Cooperation. **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/207579744/Southern-Innovator-Magazine-Issue-5-Waste-and-Recycling>

New Publication

Southern Innovator Issue 5: Waste and Recycling: Improving Human Development with Finite Resources **Publisher:** UN Office for South-South Cooperation in UNDP. Southern Innovator's fifth issue explores how innovation can tackle the challenges of improving human development on a planet with finite resources. SI researchers identified innovative, low-polluting options to the world's energy needs. They found that it is possible to alter the way things are made to reduce or eliminate waste and toxic pollutants harming human health and damaging the environment. Order copies for distribution from the UN Office for South-South Cooperation in UNDP. ISSN 2222-9280 ISBN 978-0-9920217-1-9 **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/207579744/Southern-Innovator-Magazine-Issue-5-Waste-and-Recycling>

On the Web

Blogs and Websites

Open Aid Data: Openaiddata.org provides detailed developing aid data from around the world. Unlike most other websites, this project combines data from various sources offering a more comprehensive view. **Website:** openaiddata.org

Conserve India: Conserve India is a leading not-for-profit organization born out of a desire to reduce and reuse India's growing mountain of waste, and simultaneously help the most vulnerable community of rag-pickers.

Website: <http://conserveindia.wordpress.com/>

Raspberry Pi: The Raspberry Pi is a credit-card sized computer that plugs into your TV and a keyboard. It's a capable little PC which can be used for many of the things that your desktop PC does, like spreadsheets, word-processing and games. It also plays high-definition video. Raspberry Pi want to see it being used by kids all over the world to learn programming. **Website:** raspberrypi.org

African Robotics Network: The African Robotics Network (AFRON) is a community of institutions, organizations and individuals engaged in robotics in Africa. AFRON seeks to promote communication and collaborations that will enhance robotics-related education, research and industry on the continent. To achieve this, AFRON organizes projects, meetings and events in Africa at robotics and automation conferences abroad. **Website:** <http://robotics-africa.org/>

Polis: A collaborative blog about cities around the globe. **Website:** <http://www.thepolisblog.org/2012/03/coca-cola-in-africa.html>

mDirectory: The mDirectory is the most comprehensive database of information on mobile tech for social change on the Web: case studies, mobile tools, research, and how-to guides. **Website:** <http://mobileactive.org/directory>

Global Development: Launched in September 2010, this website from the Guardian newspaper tracks progress on the MDGs, encourages debate on its blogs, offers a rich store of datasets from around the world, and features monthly podcasts and resources for schools. **Website:** www.guardian.co.uk/global-development

Focus on Land in Africa: Focus on Land in Africa (FOLA) is an educational resource for development practitioners and policy makers that explores how land and natural resource rights affect, and are effected by, development in Africa. Through raising awareness of these issues, FOLA aims to elevate land and natural resource rights as an urgent priority for development in Africa. **Website:** http://www.focusonland.com/?utm_source=Com+Plotlines+-+OCT+2013&utm_campaign=4+Plotlines+SEPT+2013+Plots&utm_medium=email

India Water Tool: The India Water Tool (IWT) is a country customization of the [Global Water Tool](#), and has been developed by a 14 company working group based in India. The companies pooled their expertise to obtain *the best available data on ground water availability and quality in India* and customize the tool to their country context. The tool will help companies respond to the growing challenges of managing water effectively in this large, water scarce country. **Website:** <http://www.wbcsd.org/indiawatertool.aspx>

International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs): International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs) is a pluralist network of progressive economists across the world, engaged in research, teaching and dissemination of critical analyses of economic policy and development. **Website:** www.networkideas.org/

OECD: Tackling the economic crisis website: The global economic crisis is entering a new phase amid signs of a return to positive growth in many countries. But unemployment is likely to remain high and much still needs to be done to underpin a durable recovery. This website will track the recovery. **Website:** <http://www.oecd.org/general/tacklingthecrisisastrategicresponse.htm>

The Global Urbanist: News and analysis of cities around the world: planning, governance, economy, communities, environment, international. **Website:** globalurbanist.com

Green Prophet: Green Prophet is a sustainable voice for green news on the Middle East region. A region with sweeping changes and immense opportunities for sustainable investment and growth, we cover a vast and unexplored territory from Morocco to Iran. The Middle East and North Africa region includes more than half a billion people. Controlling about 60 per cent of the world's oil, and 45 per cent of its natural gas reserves, and with little environmental awareness in general and dwindling water resources, the region's activities are of immense consequence for climate change, human migration, and the future of our planet. **Website:** <http://www.greenprophet.com/>

Inhabitat: Inhabitat.com is a weblog devoted to the future of design, tracking the innovations in technology, practices and materials that are pushing architecture and home design towards a smarter and more sustainable future. **Website:** <http://inhabitat.com/>

ICT Update: A bimonthly printed bulletin, a web magazine, and an accompanying email newsletter that explores innovative uses of information technology in agriculture and rural development in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. **Website:** <http://ictupdate.cta.int/en/Regulars/Perspectives/%28issue%29/56>

Youth-Inclusive Financial Services (YFS-Link) Program website: The first space for financial services providers (FSPs) and youth-service organizations (YSOs) to gather, learn and share about youth-inclusive financial services. **Website:** <http://www.makingcents.com/ourWork/yfsLink.php>

Triple Crisis Blog: Global Perspectives on Finance, Development and Environment **Website:** <http://triplecrisis.com/>

Full Disclosure: The Aid Transparency Blog: A Devex blog, written by members of the international community. **Website:** www.devex.com/en/blogs/full-disclosure

Africa Portal: An online knowledge resource offering researchers and opinion leaders a forum to share their insights on Africa and publish their work on pressing areas of concern to policymakers and the public. It aims to fill the gap in accessibility to research and information on policy issues on the continent. **Website:** africaportal.org

African Economic Outlook: A unique online tool that puts rigorous economic data, information and research on Africa at your fingertips. A few clicks gives access to comprehensive analyses of African economies, placed in their social and political contexts. This is the only place where African countries are examined through a common analytical framework, allowing you to compare economic prospects at the regional, sub-regional and country levels. **Website:** africaneconomicoutlook.org/en

Africa Renewal: The Africa Renewal information programme, produced by the Africa Section of the United Nations Department of Public Information, provides up-to-date information and analysis of the major economic and development challenges facing Africa today. **Website:** www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/afrec/

Timbuktu Chronicles: A blog by Emeka Okafor

With “a view of Africa and Africans with a focus on entrepreneurship, innovation, technology, practical remedies and other self-sustaining activities.” **Website:** <http://timbuktuchronicles.blogspot.com/>

AfriGadget: AfriGadget is a must-read for African invention junkies. They are always on the look out for ingenious innovation that is new or a repurposing of existing technology in a new way, interesting in the sense that the story captures the imagination of others, inspiring others to see solutions in uncommon ways, practical ideas that solve problems in a demonstrable way, and entrepreneurs who are inventing new products or solutions. **Website:** afrigadget.com

Interesting Blogger

EBP Lab

The EBP LAB is a platform that promotes emerging leaders, thinkers and doers who are pioneering alternative routes to value creation in the 21st century. **Website:** <http://www.ebplab.com/emerging2emerging/>

Notable Websites

UNRISD

The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) is an autonomous research institute within the UN system that undertakes multidisciplinary research and policy analysis on the social dimensions of contemporary development issues. UNRISD's new website is packed with resources and publications and always has a new event worth checking out. **Website:** <http://www.unrisd.org/>

Social Media

Africa Entrepreneurship Platform

This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally, driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas. **Website:** www.sacca.biz

AfriGadget on Facebook: 'Solving everyday problems with African ingenuity': **Website:** www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2402629579

Start-up Funding

Venture Capital for Africa

Venture Capital for Africa (www.vc4africa.biz) is the continent's leading founder's network, the largest and fastest growing community of entrepreneurs and investors building promising companies in Africa. The community currently supports more than 1000 + ventures in more than 30 African countries. Already entrepreneurs have been featured in mainstream media, established joint ventures and secured funding. **Website:** <https://vc4africa.biz/>

Ashoka - Innovators for the Public

To support social entrepreneurs who are leading and collaborating with changemakers, in a team of teams model that addresses the fluidity of a rapidly evolving society. Ashoka believes that anyone can learn and apply the critical skills of empathy, team work, leadership and changemaking to be successful in the modern world.

Website: <https://www.ashoka.org/>

Betterplace

Betterplace.org is a transparent online donation platform. 5,818 projects already use the free technology and advice – and 392,264 donors have enthusiastically contributed. **Website:** <http://www.betterplace.org/en>

Hubs!

They are sprouting up all over the place and now there is a map showing where they are in Africa. Website: <https://africahubs.crowdmap.com/#> And there are 18 in Latin America too. **Website:** <http://thenextweb.com/la/2012/08/11/18-latin-american-tech-hubs-know/>

The SEED Initiative

Hosted by the UN Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the SEED Initiative is a global partnership for action on the Green Economy. The annual SEED Awards help to develop the most promising social and environmental start-ups in emerging economies and developing countries.

Website: <http://unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=2647&ArticleID=8798&l=en>

The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award

This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda. Five pioneers will receive US \$50,000 to re-invest in their business. It is open to for-profit businesses that provide high wages to their workers and that operate in sustainable ways.

Website: <http://pioneersofprosperity.org/index.php>

Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition

Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of £2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the 'world's first global youth development competition'.

Website: www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/oba/se/ybd

Challenge

InnoCentive (www.innocentive.com/) is a challenge to the world's inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable. It is an open marketplace where anybody with a problem can post it, and rewards for effective solutions stretch up to US \$100,000. They use rigorous intellectual property protection so ideas are not stolen without credit being given to the inventor. **Website:**

www.rockfound.org/about_us/news/2007/0720first_seeker.shtml

Rwanda Innovation Endowment Fund (RIEF)

Rwanda Research Innovation Endowment Fund (RIEF) was established and is managed by the Government of Rwanda, through the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) in partnership with UNECA (SRO-EA & ISTD) under One UN Rwanda. The objective of this Fund is to stimulate economic transformation through R&D in innovative market-oriented products and processes in priority areas of the economy, thereby increasing prosperity and the competitiveness of the Rwandan economy. The orientation can be either for economic growth, social development or combination of the two. **Website:** <http://www.mineduc.gov.rw/spip.php?article21>

The Innovation Prize for Africa (IPA)

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Innovation Foundation (AIF) are delighted to announce the call for applications for the 2013 Innovation Prize for Africa (IPA). Too often, innovators and entrepreneurs are not highly profiled on the African development agenda. It is IPA's mission to elevate attention around innovative work and help support the vision of entrepreneurs. The prize honours and encourages innovative achievements that contribute towards the development of new products, increased efficiency or cost savings in Africa. The prize also promotes the efforts of young African men and women pursuing science, technology and engineering careers as well as business opportunities that aim to contribute to sustainable development in Africa. **Website:** <http://innovationprizeforafrica.org/>

Video

Forum for the Future: Compelling animated videos exploring the hard choices of an urbanizing world and the need to promote sustainable development and environmental harmony. **Website:**

<http://www.youtube.com/user/forumforthefuture96>

EVENTS

Have an event you would like the South-South community to know about? Then send details to developmentchallenges@googlemail.com.

Africa Events

An excellent resource by Aryan Media Group for all events in Africa in 2014. Look up events by the month or by country. **Website:** <http://www.events-africa.com/>

2014

April

World Economic Forum on Latin America

Panama City, Panama (1-3 April 2014)

Latin America is known for its financial stability, sustained economic growth, growing middle class and vast natural resources. Its internal market of over 600 million people, strong macroeconomic foundations and increased access to financing make the region ripe for global opportunities. Panama, the host of this year's World Economic Forum on Latin America, embodies the region's progress and potential. The country is a thriving international hub of trade and investment in the Americas and has demonstrated impressive economic performance and stable growth rates of over 10% in recent years. It offers a strategic geographic position in the

centre of the Americas, being further enhanced with the development of modern infrastructure and the expansion of the Panama Canal, which is to coincide with the celebration of its centenary at the meeting. The World Economic Forum on Latin America will focus on the region's efforts in maintaining its economic growth, boosting the diversification of its economies, increase its productivity, fuel competitiveness, enhance trade and invest in human capital. Participants will help to determine how to better address challenges in education, health, infrastructure and technology in the region and will contribute to shaping the region's economic, social and political agenda.

Website: <http://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-latin-america-0>

Global Health and Innovation Conference

Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA (12-13 April 2014)

The Global Health & Innovation Conference is the world's largest global health conference and social entrepreneurship conference. This must-attend, thought-leading conference annually convenes 2,200 leaders, change makers, students, and professionals from all fields of global health, international development, and social entrepreneurship.

Website: <http://www.globalhealth.org/event/global-health-innovation-conference-presented-by-unite-for-sight-11th-annual-conference/>

Spring Meeting of IMF and World Bank

Washington DC, USA (19-21 April 2014)

Annual and spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group. 2014 will be a key year for decisions on the world's financial and monetary architecture.

Website: <http://www.imf.org/external/am/index.htm>

World Economic Forum on Latin America

Lima, Peru (23-25 April 2014)

Delivering Growth, Strengthening Societies

"Securing economic growth requires an investment in all people in our region, and will only come through shared accountability and effective collaboration between government, civil society and the private sector."

– **Carlos Rodríguez-Pastor**, Chairman, Interbank, Peru

Latin America has maintained high levels of economic growth and financial resilience, attracting increased foreign investment and tourism and progressing towards poverty alleviation, while building a larger and more demanding middle class. Due to its vast wealth of natural resources, cultural heritage and human capital, the region is fertile ground for novel business and social innovation models that will ensure its comprehensive long-term development. With the support of the Government of Peru and the Forum's Partners, leaders will discuss the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead, under the theme, "Delivering Growth, Strengthening Societies".

Website: <http://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-latin-america-2013>

Green Energy and Energy Security

Abuja, Nigeria (25-26 April 2014)

AEE Conferences attract delegates from the most influential government, corporate and academic energy decision-making institutions. Conference programs address critical issues of vital concern and importance to governments and industries and provide a forum where policy issues are presented, considered and discussed at both formal sessions and informal social functions.

Website: <http://www.iaee.org/en/conferences/>

May

World Travel Market Africa 2014

Cape Town, South Africa (2-3 May 2014)

World Travel Market Africa is the new highlight and leading B2B event for the African travel industry, brought to you by world leaders Reed Travel Exhibitions and Thebe Reed Exhibitions. WTM Africa will bring together international and African suppliers with both a pan African and global audience of travel buyers and professionals for 2 days of exchanging ideas, sharing best practice, meeting new contacts from across the world and ultimately conducting business. For anyone involved in the African travel industry this is a must-attend event!

Website: <http://www.events-africa.com/world-travel-market-africa-2014-events-africa.html>

World Economic Forum Africa

Abuja, Nigeria (7-9 May 2014)

Forging Inclusive Growth, Creating Jobs

"For Africa to remain relevant, we need to adequately educate our people, as it is through education that we can unlock the potential of our youth to enable Africa to compete globally, and create jobs in the new knowledge economy."

– **H.E. Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan**, President of Nigeria

Africa's remarkable growth trajectory is projected to remain above 5 per cent in 2014 with West Africa the fastest growing sub-region, representing the continent's largest business opportunity. Such momentum is a welcome and necessary boon to a region whose youthful population offers the prospects of a significant demographic dividend fueled by growth in consumer industries, manufacturing and business process outsourcing. Nigeria, sub-Saharan Africa's second-largest economy and most populous nation – with over 160 million inhabitants – already plays a crucial role in advancing the continent's growth; yet it is also emblematic of the challenges of

converting natural wealth into solutions that address persistent social challenges. As the foremost gathering on the continent, the 24th World Economic Forum on Africa will bring together regional and global leaders to discuss innovative structural reforms and investments that can sustain the continent's growth while creating jobs and prosperity for all its citizens.

Website: <http://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-africa-0>

World Economic Forum on East Asia

Manila, Philippines (21-23 May 2014)

Leveraging Growth for Equitable Progress

As one of the economically fastest-growing regions in the world, ASEAN is one year away from launching the ASEAN Economic Community, a common market which will comprise 600 million people and have a combined GDP of nearly US\$ 2 trillion. Fresh demand in Europe and the United States, along with recently concluded trade agreements, are expected to boost production and consumption in East Asia. Almost all of the 10 ASEAN economies are expecting growth above 5% in 2014. In this context, the 23rd World Economic Forum on East Asia will be held in Manila, Philippines. Writing one of the greatest economic comeback stories in recent years, the Philippines is poised to be the strongest performing South-East Asian economy in 2014, with GDP growth projected to surpass 6.5%. The meeting will serve as an ideal platform for participants to deliberate the opportunities of the ASEAN Economic Community to promote greater inclusion across East Asia and to instill more resilient decision-making in the face of unpredictable economic and natural disruptions.

Website: <http://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-east-asia-0>

June

Africa Media Business Exchange 2014

Nairobi, Kenya (5 June 2014)

This year's Broadcast, Film & Music Africa Conference (BFMA 2014) will include the 2nd Africa Media Business Exchange to provide a platform for African media start-ups to pitch their business ideas and opportunities to Venture Capitalists (VCs) and other potential investors – as well as for content producers to pitch their ideas to commissioning editors and other buyers of content.

Website: <http://www.events-africa.com/africa-media-business-exchange-2014-events-africa.html>

Global Health Council: International Conference on Global Health

Washington DC, USA (13-17 June 2014)

Website: globalhealth.org

Africa Energy Forum

Istanbul, Turkey (18-20 June 2014)

The Africa Energy Forum is the international marketplace where governments and power utilities of Africa unite with the energy industry to focus on delivering power infrastructure projects in Africa. All the players in the industry are in the same place at the same time.

Website: <http://www.energynet.co.uk/page/africa-energy-forum>

July

Have an event you would like the South-South community to know about? Then send details to developmentchallenges@googlemail.com.

Aviation Outlook Africa 2014

Johannesburg, South Africa (1-2 July 2014)

Aviation Outlook Africa is a conference about meeting the demand for aviation solutions. The event targets decision-makers from local and international airlines, airports, investors and government.

Website: <http://www.events-africa.com/aviation-outlook-africa-2014-events-africa.html>

2nd International Conference on Global Public Health 2014

Negombo, Sri Lanka (3-4 July 2014)

Offers a valuable opportunity to network with colleagues from many countries who share the same goals. Scientists and experts in Global public health are invited to participate in Asia's largest public health event in Sri Lanka. Session themes for the conference cover a rich and diverse range of research topics. We hope these sessions will bring researchers from across the globe together to discuss broad questions of common interest and provide a platform to establish relationships with new colleagues. You will be enlightened with innovative ideas and solutions at GPH 2014.

Website: <http://www.health3000.org/>

August

Have an event you would like the South-South community to know about? Then send details to developmentchallenges@googlemail.com.

September

Annual Meeting of the New Champions

Tianjin, People's Republic of China (10-12 September 2014)

Established in 2007 as the foremost global gathering on science, technology and innovation, the Annual Meeting of the New Champions convenes the next generation of fast-growing enterprises shaping the future of business and society together with leaders from major multinationals as well as government, media, academia and civil society. Join us next September in Tianjin as part of – a community of more than 1,500 participants from 90 countries – for a true global experience addressing today's unprecedented set of intertwined global challenges – economic, political, societal and environmental.

Website: <http://www.weforum.org/events/annual-meeting-new-champions>

World Economic Forum on Europe, MENA and Eurasia

Istanbul, Turkey (28-30 September 2014)

Shaping New Pathways to Development and Growth

Istanbul sits at the intersection of globally important regions and cultures, and within one of the world's most dynamic economies, Turkey. Building on a cross-regional platform introduced in Istanbul in 2012, the 2014 meeting will bring together over 1,000 of the foremost leaders from across Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia. These regions share common challenges while remaining emphatically diverse. At the same time, they are increasingly interconnected, which creates a host of new opportunities and imperatives. Across these regions, business, government and civil society leaders are looking for ways to strengthen institutions, boost employment and create inclusive growth by fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. These shared efforts are critical for Europe's drive to close its competitiveness divide, North Africa's complex transitions and reforms in Central Asia.

Website: <http://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-europe-mena-and-eurasia>

October

Global Youth Economic Opportunities Conference

Washington, D.C., USA (6-8 October 2014)

Making Cents International is thrilled to announce the 2014 Global Youth Economic Opportunities Conference will take place October 6-8 at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel (2800 South Potomac Ave. Arlington, Virginia 22202), which is just minutes outside Washington, DC. We look forward to your engagement in a dynamic exchange of lessons learned, promising practices, and innovative ideas through a "Spotlight on Technology" and 5 learning tracks: Workforce Development, Youth Enterprise Development, Monitoring, Evaluation & Impact Assessment, Gender, Youth-Inclusive Financial Services and Capabilities.

Website: youtheconomicopportunities.org/conference and makingcents.com

Twitter: @YouthEconOpps and @MakingCentsIntl

TEDGlobal 2014: South!

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (5-10 October 2014)

TEDGlobal is heading to Latin America. In October 2014, on the beach of Copacabana in Rio de Janeiro, we will be celebrating the outpouring of innovation, dynamism and creativity taking place all over South America and the global south. The world is changing fast. Fresh thinking can be found in every direction, in emerging geographies as well as in the western hemisphere. Prepare to have your world turned upside down: Join us in Rio to explore the realities of tomorrow.

Website: <http://conferences.ted.com/TEDGlobal2014/>

Hidden Money, Hidden Resources: Financing Development with Transparency

Lima, Peru (14-15 October 2014)

You are invited to the 2014 annual conference of the Financial Transparency Coalition (FTC), co-hosted by the Latin American Network on Debt, Development, and Rights (LATINDAD). The event will bring together leaders in the development and finance communities to draw attention to the growing problem of illicit financial flows and the impact on development. By conveying a variety of stakeholders, from government officials to civil society advocates and policy experts from around the world, the conference serves as a global platform to exchange ideas, engage in creative thinking on the issue of illicit flows, and work together to find solutions. You can submit any questions to the conference team via email to: conference@financialtransparency.org. We regret to inform you that the FTC is unable to provide funding for travel, accommodation, or per diems for the conference at this time. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Website: http://conference.financialtransparency.org/conf/?page_id=13

November

World Economic Forum on India

(New Delhi, India (4-6 November 2014)

India is Asia's third largest economy, the world's largest democracy and most populous country, with over 1.2 billion inhabitants. In this indispensable emerging market, the country's entrepreneurs and rapidly globalizing firms are key contributors to the world economy. However, as a fundamentally bottom-up, state-led and centrally enabled model, the country's development is a multidimensional undertaking. As a result, the challenges and opportunities that India encounters are among the most important yet also least understood in the world. Marking the thirtieth year of the World Economic Forum's active engagement in India, taking place at a time

when the energetic optimism for India which has been prevalent in the past decade has given way to questions about the country's true potential, the Forum will provide the foremost multistakeholder platform bringing together international and national leaders in New Delhi who are invested in building a sustainable roadmap for India's future. This meeting will offer an opportunity to meet with the new government to discuss key issues that challenge inclusive growth in India and to focus to craft solutions. This will be an invaluable meeting for all who have a real interest in the future of India.

Website: <http://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-india-0>

AITEC East Africa ICT Summit 2014

Nairobi, Kenya (19-20 November 2014)

The time has come for East Africa's long heralded ICT revolution to start delivering results that improve the quality of life for the region's citizens. The technology is available, the international communication links are in place, the need is clear.

Website: <http://www.events-africa.com/aitec-east-africa-ict-summit-2014-events-africa.html>

December

Have an event you would like the South-South community to know about? Then send details to developmentchallenges@googlemail.com.

January 2015 – Millennium Development Goals Deadline Year

April

7th World Water Forum

Daegu-Gyeongbuk, Republic of Korea (12-17 April 2015)

The 7th World Water Forum will take place in Daegu-Gyeongbuk, Republic of Korea, from 12 to 17 April 2015. The 7th Edition of the world's largest water event is expected to gather over 30,000 people from multi-stakeholder backgrounds for 6 days of high-quality sessions, intense debates and informative workshops.

Website: worldwatercouncil.org

AWARDS AND FUNDING

CTA Top 20 Innovations for Smallholder Farmers: Call for Proposals

CTA is a joint international institution of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States and the European Union (EU). Its mission is to advance food and nutrition security, increase prosperity and encourage sound natural resource management in ACP countries. Smallholder production systems in ACP countries are performing far below the levels required to sustain livelihoods, reduce poverty and contribute to the attainment of food and nutrition security and ecological sustainability. Research results and technologies that have been developed in universities and research institutes are said to "remain on the shelf". Farmer "innovations" are sometimes ignored and generally not valued or promoted. While it is recognized that, a complex package of inputs, support systems and management practices would be required to achieve the desired results; there is need to unleash the **innovation** potential of ACP scientists, engineers and farmers make visible the knowledge that remain out of reach of the majority of farmers in most ACP countries.

CTA is calling for proposals on innovations in use or have potential in smallholder agricultural production systems in ACP countries and which if known and widely promoted can benefit other farming communities.

Website: <http://youngfarmersfoundation.wordpress.com/2014/01/28/cta-top-20-innovations-for-smallholder-farmers-call-for-proposals/>

Agribusiness for Innovation

The Nairobi-based Agribusiness for Innovation Incubator programme is inviting people to apply for the 2014 programme. If you have an innovation that is aimed at improving food production, processing, technology or distribution and have legalized your idea, then the Incubation Programme is looking for you. The programme invites 12 agribusiness start-ups with mature ideas to work together with facilitators, mentors and like minded entrepreneurs in the same environment for 16 weeks. The sessions and workshops will help the start-up teams analyze the real need for input and feedback from the market, customers and key stakeholders, and design their tests and pilots accordingly. After 4 weeks of the sessions the teams will make presentations to a panel of business angles and their fellow peers and they panel will select 5 start-ups that will be given the pre-committed funding of \$5,000 each, to commence the testing and piloting. The piloting programme will continue for 10 weeks where they will be having guidance from facilitators, advisers and mentors. The activities conclude with a presentation to potential investors, key stakeholders and the social enterprise community at large what their tests and pilots revealed, and what the next steps are for their business venture.

Website: <http://techmoran.com/where-are-the-kenyan-agribusiness-innovators/>

World Habitat Awards 2015

New deadline for World Habitat Award submissions: the World Habitat Awards will now be presented at the World Urban Forum and UN-Habitat Governing Council events in April of each year, increasing opportunities for international exposure, networking and dissemination of the award winning approaches. **Website:** <http://www.worldhabitatawards.org/enter/?lang=00>

Mayors Challenge

Innovation comes from an intentional process of experimentation and exploration. The 2013–2014 Mayors Challenge is an ideas competition for European cities—a chance to win funding for a bold new solution to a major urban challenge. It exists to bring powerful new ideas to life—not only to help your own city, but to encourage others to adopt creative approaches as well. **Website:**

<http://mayorchallenge.bloomberg.org/index.cfm?objectid=58B735E0-1A4E-11E3-8975000C29C7CA2F>

The EU Contest for Young Scientists

The European Union (EU) Contest for Young Scientists, an initiative of the European Commission, was set up to promote the ideals of co-operation and interchange between young scientists. **Website:**

http://ec.europa.eu/research/youngscientists/index_en.cfm?pg=history

2014 Innovation Prize for Africa

The second round of the Innovation Prize for Africa (IPA), which aims to reward innovation across Africa in key sectors of interest, has been launched. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) expect the prize to promote among young African men and women in the pursuit of science, technology and engineering careers and business applications. The aims are to:

- Mobilize leaders from all sectors to fuel African innovation;
- Promote innovation across Africa in key sectors of interest through the competition;
- Promote science, technology and engineering as rewarding, exciting and noble career options among the youth in Africa by profiling success applicants; and
- Encourage entrepreneurs, innovators, funding bodies and business development service providers to exchange ideas and explore innovative business opportunities.

Website: innovationprizeforafrica.org

World Summit Youth Award

The international contest for young people using the Internet and mobiles to take action on the UN Millennium Development Goals. **Website:** www.youthaward.org

Grand Challenges Canada: Request for proposals

Grand Challenges Canada is pleased to announce a new initiative in its Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health grand challenge. It's called Saving Brains. Its goal is to unlock potential in children and dramatically transform lives in the developing world. The money to fund this program comes from the Development Innovation Fund. In Budget 2008, the Government of Canada committed \$225 million CAD over five years to the Development Innovation Fund, to support the best minds in the world in a collaborative search for solutions to global health challenges. For the Request for Proposals: **Website:** http://www.grandchallenges.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Request_for_Proposals-Saving_Brains_EN.pdf

Zayed Future Energy Prize

The world is in desperate need of innovative solutions to create a new, sustainable energy future. No one knows who or where the next great energy solution will come from. Solutions and technologies that could change the world are being developed globally, and the \$2.2 million Zayed Future Energy Prize, managed by Masdar in Abu Dhabi, recognizes and rewards innovation, leadership, and long-term vision in renewable energy and sustainability. **Website:** www.zayedfutureenergyprize.com/

Philips Liveable Cities Award

Philips is looking for individuals and community or non-government organizations and businesses with ideas for "simple solutions" that will improve people's health and well-being in a city to enter the Philips Liveable Cities Award. To help translate these ideas into reality, three Award grants totalling €125,000 are on the line. One overall winning idea from any of the three categories outlined below will receive a grant of €75,000, while the two additional ideas will receive grants of €25,000. **Website:** <http://www.becausephilips.com/livable-cities-award/about-the-award>

Piramal Foundation in India

Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India's rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India's health-care crisis.

Website: www.piramalprize.org

Special Award for South-South Transfer

The aim of the award is to identify, provide visibility, and honour those who have successfully shared their projects and approaches internationally, thereby increasing the impact of the initiative. The winning practice receives US \$15,000 to further transfer the awarded practice to other communities in developing countries.

Website: www.southsouthexpo.org

South-South Experience Exchange Facility

Supported by Mexico, China, India, Denmark, Spain, The Netherlands, and the U.K. and now Colombia, the South-South Experience Exchange Facility is a multi-donor trust fund that promotes the idea that developing countries can learn from the successes of other developing countries in overcoming similar challenges. In the past 12 months, the trust has given out 35 grants to countries for learning activities ranging from working with at risk youth in the Caribbean to outsourcing IT services in Africa. **Website:** www.southsouthcases.info

African Writers Fund

Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies. **Website:** http://www.trustafrica.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=91&Itemid=90&lang=fr

Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme

Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Centre for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan
Contact: namstct@vsnl.com, namstct@bol.net.in, apknam@gmail.com

PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana

The University of Ghana (www.ug.edu.gh) has been awarded a project support grant by the Alliance for a Green Revolution (www.agra-alliance.org) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme. **Website:** www.acci.org.za/Default.asp?nav=Home&idno=10

Genesis: India's Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition

Is a social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible. **Website:** <http://genesis.iitm.ac.in/>

Jobs and Careers

Weitzenegger's International Development Job Market

Website: www.weitzenegger.de/new/jobmarket.php

Global Knowledge Initiative

The Global Knowledge Initiative seeks to build global knowledge partnerships between individuals and institutions of higher education and research. It seeks to help partners access the global knowledge, technology, and human resources needed to sustain growth and achieve prosperity for all."

Website: www.globalknowledgeinitiative.org/

ExportHelp - Promoting and supporting access to the European market

The European Commission runs a database for the explicit support of market players in developing countries who want to bring their products to the EU market. The database gives an overview on the EU's preferential trade regimes established for developing countries as well as lists all tariffs, taxes and other requirements for goods imported into the EU.

Website: <http://exporthelp.europa.eu>

Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects.

Website: www.devex.org

Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans

Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Africancareerguidance.com is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organization that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and résumé preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.

Website: www.africancareerguidance.com

African Diaspora Skills Database

This database was compiled to provide an overview of qualified African Diaspora professionals with varied areas of expertise and experience. The African Diaspora contributes substantially to the social, economic and political development of Africa, and this database is set up to further mobilize this considerable potential.

Website: www.diaspora-centre.org/NEWSLETTER/Database

Aid Workers Network (AWN)

Aid Workers Network (AWN) is an online platform for aid, relief and development workers to ask and answer questions of each other, and to exchange resources and information. AWN is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity. You will find discussions about a range of questions and issues on the AWN forum from aid, relief and development workers all over the world and representing a variety of fields, with new threads or responses posted daily. The forum is a great way to get in contact with other aid and development workers in your geographic area or working in a similar area of work.

Website: www.aidworkers.net

Bizzlounge

Bizzlounge is where people committed to ethical behaviour meet, who want to establish and maintain business contacts in an exclusive and relaxed environment.

Website: <http://bizzlounge.com>

Business Action for Africa

Business Action for Africa is a network of businesses and business organizations working collectively to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Africa.

Website: <http://businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com>

Business Fights Poverty

Business Fights Poverty is a professional network for all those passionate about fighting world poverty through the power of good business.

Website: <http://businessfightspoverty.ning.com>

Business in Development Network (BiD)

The BiD Network Foundation runs the BiD Challenge to contribute to sustainable economic development by stimulating entrepreneurship in developing countries.

Website: www.bidnetwork.org

Zunia

By Development Exchange, it offers news, publications and networking opportunities with the world's development community.

Website: www.zunia.org

Catalogue of Poverty Networks

UNDP is organizing an online catalogue of Poverty Networks as a means to facilitate access to knowledge and sharing this to a wider audience in 189 countries. Poverty Networks are web-based platforms that provide space for sharing and disseminating development-related information and initiatives. Below you will find information on IPC's collaborating networks, which help foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society and multilateral organizations.

Website: www.undp-povertycentre.org/povnet.do

Connections for Development (CfD)

CfD is a UK, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) led, membership based organization committed to ensuring that UK BME communities, and the organizations they are involved in, are supported in the process of shaping and delivering policy and projects that affect their countries of origin or interest – collectively "our world".

Website: www.cfdnetwork.co.uk

Development Crossing

Development Crossing was set up in 2006 by a small group of friends with diverse backgrounds ranging from business consulting to international development. In a world where the environment, corporate responsibility, and sustainable development are becoming increasingly intertwined, our goal was to create a site where individuals that shared our passion could keep up-to-date with relevant happenings in the world and connect with like-minded individuals. The idea behind Development Crossing is to provide a social network that brings together people from a variety of sectors, countries and professions to discuss corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.

Website: www.developmentcrossing.com

DevelopmentAid.org

The one-stop-information-shop for the developmental sector, DevelopmentAid.org is a membership organization that brings together information for developmental professionals, NGOs, consultancy firms and donors.

Website: www.developmentaid.org

dgCommunities on the Development Gateway (Zunia.org)

Zunia.org, a free online service by the Development Gateway Foundation is devoted to knowledge-sharing and collaboration for people working to reduce poverty in the developing world.

Website: <http://topics.developmentgateway.org>

Diaspora African Forum

This Forum exists "to invite and encourage the full participation of Africans in the Diaspora in the building of the African Union, in its capacity as an important part of the Continent". We will provide the vital linkage for Diaspora Africans to become involved in Africa's development as well as reap the fruits of African unity.

Website: www.diasporaaficanforum.org

Business Planet: a new data map on Entrepreneurship

Business Planet, an interactive Google map, now includes data on new business creation around the world. Measures of entrepreneurial activity are based on the number of total and newly registered corporations. Click on colour markers to learn more about each country.

Website: <http://rru.worldbank.org/businessplanet/default.aspx?pid=8>